

# College of Public Health News

August 25, 2016

Georgia Southern University

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## Georgia Southern Translates Research into Practice

August 25, 2016



The co-occurrence of depression and chronic diseases is often under-recognized, under-treated, and under-studied. Among Latinos, complex structural and cultural barriers exist which complicate the translation of chronic disease self-management programs (CDSMP) for this population.

To better understand those barriers and deliver a CDSMP designed to best meet local needs, a community-based, mixed methods study was designed. Formative research was conducted through focus groups with Latinos with chronic illness and minor depression (ICD) and family members to obtain insight into perceived needs and interviews with stakeholders to assess barriers and facilitators to the adoption of CDSMPs. Analytic Hierarchy Process was employed to determine core elements of a CDSMP for ICDs, family members, and the promotores who deliver these programs.

Findings guided the transcreation of a CDSMP. This study offers a promising model for enhancing the effects of evidence-based interventions and emphasizes the importance of meeting differing needs within the local population.

[“Translating Research into Practice: Employing Community-Based Mixed Methods Approaches to Address Chronic Disease and Depression Among Latinos,”](#) was published in The Journal of Behavioral Health Services and Research on July 19, 2016.

Dr. Jaime Corvin, Department of Global Health, University of South Florida, was the lead author and Dr. Moya Alfonso, Department of Community Health Behavior and Education, Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health Georgia Southern University was one of the co-authors.

# Georgia Southern Examines Social Media Use During Disasters

August 25, 2016



Social media allows users to share information and communicate interpersonally during natural disasters, environmental disasters, and other environmental concerns. Finch and colleagues conducted a scoping review of the literature to examine how social media is used during these environmental concerns, determine what the implications are for public health officials, and identify research gaps.

They retrieved thirty-four articles for the review. From these articles, four main questions were answered: How can social media be used to disseminate information to others? How is social media used for data prediction and early warnings? How is social media used for environmental awareness and health promotion? Lastly, how can social media be used as an indicator of public participation in social media during environmental concerns?

They found evidence supporting social media as a useful surveillance tool during natural disasters, environmental disasters, and other environmental concerns. Public health officials can use social media to gain insight into public opinions and perceptions. Social media allows public health workers and emergency responders to act more quickly and efficiently during crises. Further research is needed to improve the use of social media during natural disasters, environmental disasters, and other environmental concerns.

[“Public health implications of social media use during natural disasters, environmental disasters, and other environmental concerns,”](#) was published in *Natural Hazards*.

Ms. Kathryn C. Finch, Ms. Cassandra R. Snook, and Ms. Carmen H. Duke, MPH epidemiology students at the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, Georgia Southern University took the lead on this research mentored by Assistant Professor of Epidemiology, Dr. Isaac Chun-Hai Fung.

## Georgia Southern Examines Epigenetic Dysregulation of IGF

August 25, 2016



Preterm birth (PTB), low birth weight (LBW) and small for gestational age (SGA) are leading causes of neonatal mortality and morbidity around the world. Epigenetic alterations of the human genome may be involved in the causal chain of adverse pregnancy outcomes. In this systematic review we investigated whether PTB, LBW and SGA are associated with epigenetic dysregulation of insulin-like growth factor-related genes (IGF).

We searched MEDLINE and EMBASE for peer-reviewed articles about IGF and PTB, LBW and SGA published up to February 2015. Two independent reviewers selected original, controlled, human studies published in any language and graded them using the Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale. Disagreements were resolved by consensus with a third reviewer.

Overall, evidence of an association between epigenetic abnormalities of IGF-related genes and LBW or SGA was weak and inconsistent. Methodological concerns limited results validity.

[“Epigenetic dysregulation of Insulin-like growth factor \(IGF\)-related genes and adverse pregnancy outcomes: a systematic review,”](#) was published in The Journal of Maternal-Fetal & Neonatal Medicine.

Dr. Samuel Opoku, assistant professor of health policy and management at the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health Georgia Southern University was one of the co-authors.

## Winners of the Karl E. Peace Award for Outstanding Statistical Contributions for the Betterment of Society (2012-2016):

August 25, 2016



The Karl E. Peace Award is bestowed upon a distinguished individual who has made substantial contributions to the statistical profession that has led to direct ways of improving the human condition. The award was established in the American Statistical Association by Christopher K. Peace, son of Karl E. Peace, on behalf of the Peace family to honor the life work of his father. The 2016 Karl E. Peace Award for Outstanding Statistical Contributions for the Betterment of Society honorees are:

- **Gary M. Shapiro of Statistics without Borders**, who was recognized for his central role in the formation of-and ongoing volunteer mentoring in Statistics without Borders (SWB), an organization devoted to using statistics to further the development of human rights throughout the world. He was also recognized for his devoted pro-bono work on developing a sampling scheme of police archives for evaluating police involvement in the disappearances and killing of Guatemalans.
- **Ronald Brookmeyer of the University of California, Los Angeles**, who was recognized for his seminal methodological work in global health as it relates to disease monitoring; his work in biosurveillance as it relates to HIV/AIDS, Alzheimer's disease and biosecurity; and his contributions to training a generation of researchers about the importance of statistics in public health and increasing public awareness.

Previous honorees are:

- **Marvin Zelen, Harvard University**, who was recognized in 2012 for outstanding statistical contributions and dedication to the establishment of collaborative partnerships between biostatistical and clinical sciences-particularly in the design, conduct, and analysis of clinical trials and cancer screenings-and for visionary international professional leadership.
- **Fritz Schueren, University of Chicago**, who was recognized in 2012 for an exemplary career that has translated impressive statistical contributions into support of humankind, particularly through extensive international human rights work, and for effective leadership and advocacy in the promotion of volunteerism among ASA members.
- **Richard Simon, National Cancer Institute**, who was recognized in 2013 for contributions that have played a pivotal role in bridging the gap among statistics, clinical research and translational medicine to improve human health.
- **Gary Koch, University of North Carolina**, who was recognized in 2014 for exemplary scholarly research, teaching, and practice leading to improving public health, including a global impact on the design, analysis, and conduct of clinical trials in pharmaceutical regulation; for tireless efforts mentoring and leading students to fulfill their academic pursuits and promise; and for a philanthropic vision and commitment to his profession, universities, and students.
- **James Cochran, University of Alabama**, who was recognized in 2015 for tireless humanitarian efforts that leverage statistical training and expertise in the areas of international development and the world statistical community to improve the well-being of people across the globe; for outstanding leadership in consulting, instruction, and advancing statistical science in developing countries around the world; and for service and dedication to ASA committees, his students, and his profession.